



Department of Behavioral Health

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Quality & Compliance Oversight Division Memorandum

Coordination of Care and Information Exchange for Necessary Treatment Services

Date: November 5, 2025

To: Specialty Programs

Cc: Wellpath, Assistant Directors, may be shared with additional SMHS BCBH Teams as applicable

Background

It is the policy and standard of care at Butte County Behavioral Health (BCBH) that staff undertake every effort to coordinate necessary care and treatment of individuals for their mental health and substance use disorder treatment services. This includes the prompt sharing and coordination of necessary treatment information for individuals across the BCBH system of care and with essential community stakeholders that are also HIPAA covered entities, e.g., Wellpath.

Informing Regulations

[Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 \(HIPAA\)](#)

[California Civil Code, Chapter 2, 56.10 – 56.16 \(California Confidential Medical Information Act\)](#)

BCBH Policies and Procedures 136A, 140B, and 206

Both HIPAA and CMIA allow ***for disclosures of treatment information without a signed release of information (this is TPO)***. This includes information necessary for treatment including:

- Diagnosis
- Assessment
- Medical history (as much as we have at BCBH)
- History of medications
- Doctor's notes, assessments, and evaluations

Wellpath Contacts for Care Coordination & Information Sharing

BCBH staff shall include all Wellpath staff below on communication regarding continuity of care and care coordination.

Staff	Contact Email
Tarah Foster – Program Manager/Administrator	tfoster@buttecounty.net
Amy Chase – Discharge Planner	achase@buttecounty.net
Andres Urzua – Mental Health Provider	aurzua@buttecounty.net
Kerry Cox – Nurse Supervisor	kcox@buttecounty.net
Wellpath Office #: 530-538-7593 Wellpath Fax #: 530-538-7035	

Program Impact & Expectations for Specialty Programs

Specialty Programs staff are expected to share relevant treatment information necessary for the care coordination of mental health, co-occurring mental health, and other treatment information with Wellpath for the purposes of coordinating necessary treatment and care for individuals receiving mental health treatment at Butte County Jail.

All staff must adhere to the [minimum necessary rule](#) and only share information respective to the treatment needs of Wellpath to accomplish the task.

- For example, when/if Wellpath requests history of medications to determine best course of treatment. It would not be relevant to share also client's extensive history of sexual abuse and trauma as that is not relevant to the medication treatment need.

Staff may also provide information from previous or historical BCBH treatment episodes, if it is necessary and relevant to the current treatment request. If staff have questions regarding the information being requested, it is the expectation that they consult with their supervisor or reach out to Wellpath directly for clarification.

Examples of Information that may be disclosed under minimum necessary for jail-based care coordination:

- Historical course or medication treatment, including medication orders, face sheets, and medical progress notes
- Previous and current treatment plans, problem lists, and other information related to treatment efficacy
- Current and previous diagnosis
- Current and previous assessment information (including Comprehensive Assessment, Mental Status Examinations, Assessment notes, Nursing Assessments)
- Co-occurring treatment information, including substance use information as Specialty Programs are not considered a Part 2 protected program